

Serial No: 10/660533
Art Unit: 3653
Response to Office Action mailed 06/15/2006

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 14 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously cancelled)
2. (previously amended) The dispenser of claim 13, wherein $V_F > V_R$, and $V_T \geq V_F$.
3. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said media storage bin is arranged vertically or is inclined rearwardly at an angle less than 30° from the vertical.
4. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein each of said rear and front conveyors comprises at least two parallel conveyor belts.
5. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said transport conveyor comprises upper and lower conveyors each having at least two parallel conveyor belts arranged so that the distance between the upper conveyor and lower conveyor is sufficient to secure single media elements therebetween in driving relationship therewith.
6. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said media elements are chosen from the group consisting of: sheets of paper, pamphlets, booklets, brochures, catalogs, magazines, envelopes, CDs or DVDs in slip cases, CDs or DVDs in crystal cases or presentation cases, flyers, books, and, combinations thereof.
7. (previously cancelled)
8. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said first sensor operates to stop operation of said transport conveyor when it senses the presence of media thereat.
9. (currently amended) The dispenser of claim 8, further comprising a box ready sensor to sense when a receiver for media being discharged from said discharge chute ~~end~~ is capable of receiving more media, and which operates to start operation of said transport conveyor when the receiver is capable of receiving more media.

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10. (original) The dispenser of claim 8, wherein whenever said front conveyor starts its operation, said transport conveyor also starts its operation.
11. (previously cancelled)
12. (original) The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said rear conveyor comprises a plurality of conveyor belts arranged lengthwise along said dispenser, each being driven at said first linear velocity V_R .
13. (currently amended) A dispenser for dispensing flat media seriatim to a discharge end, comprising:
- a media storage bin for storing a stack of flat media elements, the bin having a bottom end;
 - a driven rear conveyor extending under the bottom end of the media storage bin for carrying away flat media elements from the bottom of the stack in a shingled relationship wherein the flat media elements lie flat on the conveyor with the leading edge of one said media element overlying the trailing edge of a preceding said media element, the driven rear conveyor being driven intermittently at a first linear velocity V_R ;
 - a coarse media separator comprising a first nip roller defining a first nip with the rear conveyor, said first nip roller cooperating with the rear conveyor to feed said media elements off the bottom of the stack onto said rear conveyor in said shingled relationship;
 - a first height adjustment mechanism for setting a first vertical spacing between the first nip roller and the rear conveyor to allow said media elements to pass through said first nip in said shingled relationship;
 - a driven front conveyor downstream of said rear conveyor for receiving the flat media elements from the rear conveyor, the driven front conveyor being driven intermittently at a second linear velocity V_F ;
 - a single media separator comprising a second nip roller cooperating with said driven front conveyor to define a second nip to separate said shingled media elements received from the rear conveyor into single media elements;

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a second height adjustment mechanism for setting a second vertical spacing between the second nip roller and the front conveyor to allow said media elements to pass through said second nip one at a time as separated media elements;

a transport conveyor for carrying the ~~single-flat~~separated media elements from said front conveyor to said discharge end, the transport conveyor being driven intermittently at a third linear velocity V_T ; and

a first sensor responsive to the presence or absence of a media element at the discharge end to stop operation of the transport conveyor;

a second sensor responsive to the presence or absence of a media element on the transport conveyor to stop operation of the front conveyor; and

a third sensor responsive to the presence or absence of a media element at an input to the front conveyor to stop operation of the rear conveyor.